



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**MAY 17, 2005**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ST. JOSEPH MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a third St. Joseph, Mo., resident pleaded guilty in federal court today to his role in a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.

**Karlo L. Ginn**, 23, of St. Joseph, pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning.

By pleading guilty, **Ginn** admitted that he conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine between Aug. 1, 1997, and Dec. 14, 2004, in Buchanan County, Mo.

**Ginn** is the third co-defendant to plead guilty in this case.

On April 27, 2005, **Patricia R. Williams**, 38, of St. Joseph, pleaded guilty to maintaining a residence for the purpose of manufacturing and distributing crack cocaine between Aug. 1, 1997, and July 2, 2003, in Buchanan County, Mo.

On March 30, 2005, **Maurice Thornton**, 48, of St. Joseph, pleaded guilty to using a telephone and cellular phone to commit a narcotics violation between July 3 and Aug. 27, 2003, in Buchanan County. Specifically, **Thornton** admitted that he used the means of a communication device to possess with intent to distribute between 150 and 500 grams of crack cocaine.

Under federal law, Graves explained, **Ginn** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in federal prison without parole. **Williams** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole. **Thornton** may be subject to a maximum sentence of four years in federal prison without parole.

The co-defendants in this case were charged in a second superseding indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 16, 2004. The second superseding indictment replaced the original indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 12, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Buchanan County Drug Strike Force and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)